

9811SAmin.txt
Systems Administrator Conference Call
Nov. 17, 1998, 10:00 CST

1. Hardware Maintenance St. Louis District (Alan Berman) is thinking of dropping their Intergraph Hardware Maintenance and wanted to know if other districts have done it and what were the results. Rock Island, St. Paul, and Ft. Worth have all done just that and have had no problems. They either use time and material maintenance through Intergraph or through local vendors. Workstation components are all non-proprietary and are easily replaceable (except perhaps mother board). It is recommended that servers and plotters be left on Intergraph Maintenance as the time and material contracts do not offer as quick a response time.

2. Plotting -- Rock Island District (John Kincaid) would like to know if anyone is doing batch plotting to pdf format using Iplot and if so, how are they doing it. Currently, the only way people have been able to get pdf files through Iplot is to have Iplot Server and Adobe Exchange loaded on the computer doing the plot. Also, the pdf driver prompts for a file name with every plot so the process must be done interactively. Someone mentioned that they thought Jack Smith in Vicksburg District had figured out a way of using the Intergraph Batch Port to get the pdf plots so that it didn't have to be done locally. John Kincaid will give him a call and send out to the SFAC list any progress in this area.

3. Archiving -- A question was brought up as to whether or not any districts have written archive procedures for electronic files. Although many districts were interested in having some, not many have any in place. Rock Island District will send copies of theirs to St. Paul, St. Louis, and Sacramento District. Those districts will edit them to help make them more generic for all districts and send them back to Rock Island. John will then send copies of the new generic procedures to the SFAC list.

4. CADD Survey John Kincaid is going to resend out the URL of the CADD Survey with minimum instructions and requests that all take a look and get comments back to him by 1 Dec. 1998. Please let him know that you have at least looked at it even if you have no comments.

He has received a few written comments already and a few more were discussed during the conference call. After Dec. 1, he will move it to a faster server, give it a new URL and send out the district logins and passwords for final completion. Intended use for survey is for districts to be able to find out who is using what software and hardware in Corps so can call and find out lessons learned and experiences with similar hardware/software.

5. Workspace The beta was supposed to have been delivered to Tri-Services on 11/13/98. No one has received it (including Tri-Services) at this time. Steve Spangler is supposed to let Jean McGinn and John Kincaid know when it is available and they will spread the word to the rest of the beta test volunteers.

6. EBS A Bentley White Paper describing their short and long term solution for EBS has been given a very limited initial distribution. Once the comments from this distribution have been incorporated and the paper cleaned up, it will be given a wider distribution. Intergraph and SourceView have also shown interest in coming up with a solution (mostly addressing the continuous tone raster problem) but so far have not put anything in writing. Also, the idea of dropping Windows 3.1 support on the EBS was brought up as most of the problems experienced by contractors and contractors using Windows 3.1. That subject will be brought up to Justin Taylor and/or the Executive Working Group.

7. Project Directorys John Kincaid is interested in seeing the Project Directorys structures (if any) that people are using. Please share your structure with him and he will share with others.

8. Discussion on Computer Cloning and who is using what successfully to install new computers in a short period of time.

9. SELECT Credits John is expecting a quote back from Bentley sometime this week regarding costs for providing 3 levels of Workspace Training.

Level 1 - Develop a Training Guide and an Instructors Guide for both users and administrators of the workspace.

Level 2 - Provide Train the Trainer training at each division

n using the manuals written for
Level 1.

Level 3 - A price for pushing the training to the district level. This would be informational for the districts and would not be paid for with pooled Select Credits.

Once the quote has been received, John will send a letter to Chiefs of Engineering Divisions explaining the credits, giving a recommendation on which level of training would be most beneficial for the money, and asking the district to contribute a certain percentage of their credits to the credit pool to purchase the training. John is also working with Toby Wilson and Harold Smith to make sure there is no duplication of efforts with the Center.

Rock Island District has also asked the Tri-Service Center for a proposal to come to Rock Island to give an A/E/C Standards overview.

10. If any district is currently successfully pushing down the latest Anti-Virus data lists to the desktop, please forward that information to John Kincaid or the SFAC Mail list.

11. Glen Kato is a member of the SOTG and will be going to the meeting on the 19th of Nov.

12. Next meeting: December 15, 1998, 10:00 CST, Phone # (404) 562-4365.